

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Criminal Investigation Division
Investigative Activity Report**

Case Number

0500-0614

Case Title:

Village of Crestwood, IL

Reporting Office:

Chicago, IL, Area Office

Subject of Report:

Interview of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Activity Date:

April 29, 2009

Copies to:

Related Files:

Reporting Official and Date:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), SA

11-MAY-2009, Signed by: (b) (6), (b) (7), SA

Approving Official and Date:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), SAC

15-MAY-2009, Approved by: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) SAC

SYNOPSIS

(b) (6), stated that he was instructed by his supervisor (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to remove log books and clean the well office to make it appear unused prior to state inspection. In addition, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) told (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) that he "fudged" sample numbers, did not sample during adverse weather, forged the name of another licensed operator on state reports, and was caught by state regulators distributing more water than was available without using a contaminated well source. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) confided to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) "They got me and I don't know what to do."

DETAILS

On April 29, 2009, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) laborer, was interviewed at the Village of Crestwood Maintenance Facility, 14040 S. Kildare, Crestwood, IL, by Special Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and the reporting agent. After being advised of the identity of the agents and the nature of the interview, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) provided the following information.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that he has been a laborer for the Village of Crestwood for the past eight years, performing a variety of tasks including lawn mowing, snow plowing, maintenance and water meter readings and maintenance. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was interviewed in the Men's locker room with the door closed for his privacy. He was informed that the door was closed for his privacy but that he was free to terminate the discussion at any time. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that he was aware of the need for privacy and continued with the interview.

According to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) his job as a laborer is "political" with laborers, like many Crestwood officials, being under contract or commission, which must be renewed each May. If your commission is not renewed, your position is gone and you are essentially fired from your position. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that he is not concerned about being terminated at this point,

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because he wants to tell his story as to what he feels has been going on in the Village of Crestwood for a number of years. (b) (6), stated that his wife instructed him that he needed to come forward and report this information as he and his grandchildren reside in Crestwood and there are health concerns for the children. (b) (6), stated that he has been supplying information to a third party who in turn goes to the media, concerning the tainted well water entering the Crestwood water supply.

(b) (6), stated that he joined the Village of Crestwood work force eight years ago this coming October. For the past eight years (b) (6), has taken readings at the well house off and on, under the direction of Village Maintenance Supervisor (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Village Water Inspector (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). (b) (6), stated that (b) (6), (b) controlled or attempted to control all aspects of the maintenance of the Village of Crestwood, referring to objects such as "my pump house" or "my streetlight." (b) (6), (b) is very controlling and demands full loyalty, with anyone who complains or questions his authority terminated at the end of their commission in May or sooner, according to (b) (6), (b).

(b) (6), stated that it was common knowledge among maintenance staff that the Village of Crestwood maintained a drinking water well, which did not contain an endless supply of water. (b) (6), stated that he and others working with the well were instructed to run the well for four hours, then to shut the well off for an additional four hours before resuming pumping. The well was run electronically by a timer, similar to a light timer.

According to (b) (6), (b) in December 2007, (b) (6), (b) informed (b) (6), that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) would be inspecting the well. (b) (6), (b) instructed (b) (6), to "pull the pins" on the well timer, sweep the floor, remove the log book and to gather up all papers and move/dust around with a broom to "make it look like we don't go in there." (b) (6), was asked what he did with the log book that was removed from the well house. (b) (6), stated that the log book was given to (b) (6), (b) (7).

(b) (6), stated that in approximately December of 2007, the IEPA sent an "oriental woman to inspect the well" and to review the well records. (b) (6), stated that during a lunch break or at a similar time when a group of Crestwood's laborers were sitting around the maintenance area break room, (b) (6), (b) stated that the woman from IEPA reviewed the amount of water the Village of Crestwood purchased from the Village of Alsip, IL, a

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neighboring community. The woman reviewed that 50,000,000 gallons of water was purchased from Alsip, yet the Village of Crestwood used 60,000,000 gallons of water, signifying a 10,000,000 gallon usage of well water. (b) (6), stated that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said to the group that he did not respond to the IEPA inspector at that time, who questioned the origin of the other 10,000,000 gallons of water. (b) (6), stated that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) then said to the group "they got me and I don't know what to do."

(b) (6), stated that when Crestwood was using the well it pumped approximately 100,000 gallons of water per day, with the water tower supplying approximately 1,000,000-1,200,000 gallons a day to the residents of Crestwood, IL. (b) (6), stated that he learned of pollutants in the well from a number of sources, and when he was confident there was pollution in the well, he inquired to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Village of Crestwood Water Inspector, how Crestwood's drinking water was passing State testing requirements. (b) (6), stated that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) informed him that IEPA sampled drinking water locations on three occasions and the samples failed each time. (b) (6), stated that he questioned (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) how samples that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) also a licensed drinking water operator, took were passing state requirements. (b) (6), stated that he did not know how Sciacca's samples were passing state requirements.

(b) (6), stated that in the spring of 2008, IEPA returned to Crestwood and a "white male" took samples from Crestwood's auxiliary well, but the testing protocol was difficult for technical reasons. (b) (6), stated that he assisted the IEPA inspector and later heard through "casual conversation" at the Crestwood maintenance facility that the samples the IEPA inspector took with Retke's assistance all failed.

(b) (6), stated that Crestwood employee (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (sp) spoke of building a filtration system for the village well, but the filters for the well would cost in excess of \$100,000 each and needed to be replaced every six months.

(b) (6), stated that on a number of occasions he assisted (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) with collecting drinking water samples. (b) (6), stated that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) always sampled properly, but (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) fell from a piece of equipment and was injured for five months. During (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) prolonged absence, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) sampled drinking water samples, as (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) also is a licensed Drinking Water Sampler. (b) (6), stated that during (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) absence (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) witnessed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) forge (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) signature on water sampling results. (b) (6), stated that he questioned

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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) as to why he was forging (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) signature, to which he was told to "mind your own business."

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that on another occasion he witnessed a set of empty drinking water sample bottles on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) desk. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and other employees in the vicinity "the weather is bad today so I'm going to fudge (the) samples." (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was asked when this happened and who else was present. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that during (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) extended leave this or a similar conversation from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) happened on a number of occasions.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was asked how he knew (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) "fudged" samples vs. just declaring that he was not sampling when he actually was sampling. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that during the absence of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for any reason, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was responsible for sampling. There were numerous instances when empty sampling bottles suddenly were filled and refrigerated for analysis. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that drinking water samples needed to be collected at numerous locations within the Village of Crestwood and that the time between empty and full bottles was too short a time span for (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to have driven to the sites, tested and returned. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that other Crestwood employees would verify this as well.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) added that the investigators should locate former Crestwood Village Administrator (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) of Indiana, who may have further information to corroborate (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) statements. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that when former Crestwood Mayor (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) spent the winters in Florida, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ran the Village. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) also would have information, if he would be willing to discuss the matter.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was asked if there were questions not being asked by the reporting agent that needed to be covered. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that he was knowledgeable about the illegal dealings of the Village of Crestwood regarding the drinking water and is ready to step forward, regardless of the consequences to his employment with the Village. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that the reporting agent should also locate former Crestwood employees (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) currently an employee of neighboring Midlothian, IL and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (LNU), both of whom were maintenance employees.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) supplied an Illinois CDL containing the following information:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

Crestwood, IL

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SSN: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b)

DLN: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (b)

DOB: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Home Telephone Number: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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